



April 28, 2014

CITY TALK

Tune in to City Talk today on WGCV 620 AM from 5 - 6 p.m. to hear:

- 5:00 p.m.**
Guest: Mr. Darrin Thomas, President of Black Pages USA
Topic: 2014 Black Expo
- 5:20 p.m.**
Guests: Barbara Rackes and Mary Roe
Topic: Mayor's Tour de Cure Bike Ride
- 5:40 p.m.**
Guest: Randy Davis, Recreation Superintendent for City of Columbia Parks & Recreation
Topic: Parks and Recreation Summer Camps

NEWS

CITY OF COLUMBIA HOSTS PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS YOUTH SPORTS INITIATIVE

Mayor Steve Benjamin, elected City officials, Parks and Recreation staff, players and community members gathered at a press conference for the Youth Sports Initiative. The Youth Sports Initiative is a city-wide program designed to be meaningful and fun, most at little or no cost. The program presents opportunities for youth to learn something new, refine their skills or just meet new people.



The press conference was held at the Hyatt Park baseball field, 950 Jackson Ave., where Mayor Benjamin announced that the number of participants had doubled to over 550 kids participating in the City's Parks & Recreation Summer Youth Program.

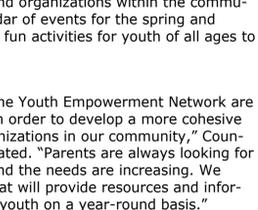
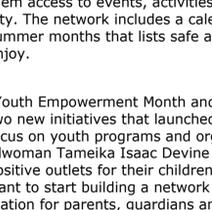
For more information on the City's Youth Sports Initiative, please call Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.



BASEBALL & SOFTBALL OPENING CEREMONY

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department hosted an opening ceremony for the Spring 2014 Youth Baseball and Softball season on Friday, April 25.

Columbia Police Chief William Holbrook, as well as City of Columbia leaders and staff, youth players, volunteer coaches and community members attended the event. Chief Holbrook, a former college baseball player, threw out the first pitch.



APRIL SHOWERS BRING ADOPTION SPECIALS TO COLUMBIA ANIMAL SERVICES

On any day that it rains during the month of April, adoption fees are half off for all cats and dogs that are one year or older.

This special is valid through **Wednesday, April 30**. For those who are looking to adopt and do not stop by the shelter on a rainy day, promotional code "rain check" can be used for additional discount offers.

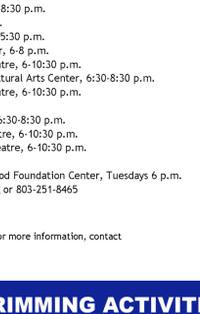
All animals are spay/neutered, micro-chipped, vaccinated and wormed. Canines are tested for heartworms and felines are tested for feline leukemia/aids.

The Columbia Animal Shelter is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The shelter is located at 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC 29209 and can be reached by calling 803-776-7387.

For more information or to view adoptable pets, please visit www.petfinder.com.

CITY OF COLUMBIA CONTINUES SUCCESS OF FIRST YOUTH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

The City of Columbia launched the Youth Empowerment initiative during the month of April to bring together more resources for the community's youth. Due to the success experienced during April, the City has announced that the Youth Empowerment Network Initiative will continue into the summer months in order to expand the network and help share information with youth, parents and guardians.



The initiative includes the creation of the Youth Empowerment Network, a cohesive resource available to youth and families that gives them access to events, activities and organizations within the community. The network includes a calendar of events for the spring and summer months that lists safe and fun activities for youth of all ages to enjoy.

"Youth Empowerment Month and the Youth Empowerment Network are two new initiatives that launched in order to develop a more cohesive focus on youth programs and organizations in our community," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated. "Parents are always looking for positive outlets for their children and the needs are increasing. We want to start building a network that will provide resources and information for parents, guardians and youth on a year-round basis."

The Youth Empowerment Network also includes a database of youth organization contacts, youth advocacy group contacts and more. The network will provide updates to these youth groups about programs and other initiatives in Columbia through the summer. The groups are also able to share information about their public events through the network.

"Due to the positive responses we have received, we want to keep the momentum going and extend the Youth Empowerment Network Initiative into the summer. Summer is a time when parents are desperately seeking positive activities for their kids, and we want them to know that the City of Columbia is here to help," Devine commented.

For more information about the Youth Empowerment Month calendar, to submit information or to be added to the Youth Empowerment Network please contact Morgan Cretella at mcocretella@columbiasc.net.

Click the following links to view the [Guidelines](#) and [Youth Empowerment Month Calendar](#) of events.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT NETWORK CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2014

April 27 - Youth 30

- April 27 - Youth Instructional Chess - Pinehurst Park, 4:30-6 p.m.
- April 28 - Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- April 28 - Badges to Baseball - Greenville Park, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- April 28 - Youth Chess - Hyatt Park, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- April 28 - Fun Zone - Greenville park, 6-8 p.m.
- April 29 - Midday College Break - MLK Park, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- April 29 - Diamonds and Pearls Girls Mentoring Program - Hyatt Park, 7 p.m.
- April 30 - Fun Zone - Greenville park, 6-8 p.m.

May 1-10

- May 2 - Performances Linda Khoury - Finlay Park Amphitheatre, 6-10:30 p.m.
- May 3 - Performances Linda Khoury - Finlay Park Amphitheatre, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.
- May 3 - Community Beautification Day - Bellfield Cultural Arts Center, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- May 4 - Spring Fling & Dance (ages 6-16) - Lorick Park, 3-6 p.m.
- May 5 - Introduction To Pottery - Cultural Arts Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- May 6 - Hand Building Basics - Cultural Arts Center, 2-4 p.m.
- May 6 - Youth Throwing Arts Class - Cultural Arts Center, 4-5:30 p.m.
- May 6 - Beginning Throwing Arts Class - Cultural Arts Center, 6-8 p.m.
- May 7 - Performances Linda Khoury - Finlay Park Amphitheatre, 6-10:30 p.m.
- May 7 - Beginning & Intermediate Throwing Arts Class - Cultural Arts Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- May 8 - Sculpture Arts Class - Cultural Arts Center, 1-3 p.m.
- May 8 - Performances Linda Khoury - Finlay Park Amphitheatre, 6-10:30 p.m.
- May 8 - Sculpture Arts Class - Cultural Arts Center, 1-3 p.m.
- May 9 - Intermediate Hand Building - Cultural Arts Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- May 9 - Performances Linda Khoury - Finlay Park Amphitheatre, 6-10:30 p.m.
- May 10 - Performances Linda Khoury - Finlay Park Amphitheatre, 6-10:30 p.m.
- May 6 - Aug. 19 - Strengthening Families Program - Edgewood Foundation Center, Tuesdays 6 p.m. City Year - Rachel Defoe, rdefoe@cityyear.org or 803-251-8465

*Note: These events are not sponsored by the City of Columbia. For more information, contact the organization directly.

SCE&G TO PERFORM TREE TRIMMING ACTIVITIES AS SCHEDULED FOR 2014

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next week:

- Lake Katherine
- POA of Lake Katherine

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored on a daily basis by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the City of Columbia follow us on Twitter @cityofcolumbia or "like" the City of Columbia on Facebook.

OBO SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities will host its second annual Small Business Week Conference on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, located at 1101 Lincoln St.

Dr. Louis B. Lynn, president of ENVIRO Ag Science, is this year's keynote speaker. Dr. Lynn established ENVIRO Ag Science, Inc. in 1985, which has become the largest African-American owned landscape firm in South Carolina. Other construction projects on his résumé include the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, the University of South Carolina Colonial Center and BMW Manufacturing.

The topics for this year's conference include:

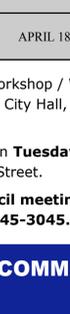
- Ways to Secure a Contract with the City of Columbia
- Free and Low Cost Technology Resources
- Business Creation and Sustainability for Women-Owned Businesses
- Benefits of Membership with the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce

Registration can be found online at Eventbrite.com or at www.columbiasc.net/obo. Tickets are \$25 and those interested in sponsorships should contact Tonya Porter-Deberry at tdeberry@columbiasc.net or 803-545-3950.

For more information, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950 or visit www.columbiasc.net/obo.

NCBA SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

The North Columbia Business Association is celebrating Small Business Week in North Columbia May 12-16. The following events will be held:



Monday, May 12th 10:00 AM
 Special Press Conference at VINO Garage* located on 2327 Main Street. Join us as we kick-off the week's activities at this business location. Then join us at North Main Street Bakery* located at 3307 N. Main Street for a special Coffee Talk from 11-12 PM to sample pastries and desserts.

Tuesday, May 13th 12:00 Noon—7:00 PM
 Join us for a drop in at Rose of Sharon Gift Shop* located on 3315 Main Street for networking and see all Rose of Sharon Gift Shop has to offer. Shop neat gifts for Father's Day!

Wednesday, May 14th 11 AM— 2:00 PM
 Join us at Professional Tire and Radiator Service* located on 3525 North Main Street for special giveaways. Win a free oil change! We will host a special guest speaker.

Thursday, May 15th 8:30 AM
 Join us for Coffee Talk at the NCBA* office located on 1013 Duke Avenue (corner of Duke and Arlington) with a special guest speaker. All business owners are invited to attend.

Friday, May 16th 10 AM –6PM
 Join us during the day for fresh samples of gourmet popcorn at 2860 N. Main Street.

Saturday, May 17th— 5:00—7:00 pm
 Join us in the evening at VINO Garage* for a special wine tasting and networking social.

For more information: Sabrina Odom, 803-331-2931

ART CENTER SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Art Center is currently seeking volunteers to help with Creative Journey, a program designed to provide art resources to local military members.

Artists that are skilled in working with various forms of art are also needed to help guide the participants through activities that assist in providing enjoyment.

Orientation will be held on Monday, May 12, 2014 at Edisto Discovery Park, located at 1914 Wiley St., from 6-7:30 p.m. Orientation is required for all artists and volunteers. Orientation will be conducted by representatives from Fort Jackson.

For more information on Creative Journey or volunteering, please contact Brenda Oliver at boliver@columbiasc.net or call 803-545-3093.

MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING DATE	TYPE OF MEETING	DEADLINES FOR AGENDA ITEMS
APRIL 29	BUDGET WORKSHOP / WORK SESSION / COUNCIL MEETING	APRIL 18

- The Columbia City Council will conduct a Budget Workshop / Work Session on **Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 1 p.m.** at City Hall, 1737 Main Street.
- The Columbia City Council will conduct a meeting on **Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 6 p.m.** at City Hall, 1737 Main Street.
- **For more information regarding the City Council meetings, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at 545-3045.**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOAN COMMITTEE MEETING

The City of Columbia Housing Division of Community Development will conduct a Loan Committee Meeting on **Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at 9 a.m. at 1225 Lady Street, Suite 102.**

EVENTS

MAY16th2014 BIKETOWORKDAY
MAY7th2014 BIKETOSCHOOLDAY

BicycleSkillsClinic & TourdeCureMayorsBikeRide

MAY3rd2014

free breakfast · bicycling skills
 · bicycling obstacle course
 · bicycling safety check & tune up · family bike ride

Robert Mills House, 1615 Blanding Street 9:30am
 Bring your own bicycle and helmet to participate.
 Register at www.diabetes.org/bikerodeo

Sponsored By: Regions Bank. Presented by: American Diabetes Association, City of Columbia Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center, Safe Kids, and Palmetto Conservation Foundation.

IT'S RAINING CATS & DOGS AT THE COLUMBIA ANIMAL SHELTER

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, WHENEVER IT'S RAINING, ADULT CAT & DOG ADOPTION FEES ARE 1/2 OFF!
*applies to pets 1 year or older

FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO WEATHER THE STORM, COME IN ANY DAY - RAIN OR SHINE - FOR ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT OFFERS
ADDITIONAL PROMO CODE: "RAINCHECK"

View Our Adoptable Pets: [Petfinder](http://Petfinder.com) [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/columbiasc)

COLUMBIA ANIMAL SERVICES
 127 HUMANE LANE
 COLUMBIA, SC 29209
 803-776-7387

COMING SOON

Join the City of Columbia at a special event: "Paycheck to Paycheck" Premiere: Financial Status of Women Forum Series
 Hosted by: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

Thursday, May 15th at 6 PM
 Richland County Public Library
 Bookstore Auditorium
 1431 Assembly St.

COUNCILWOMAN TAMEIKA ISAAC DEVINE

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine will host Columbia's premiere of the documentary, "Paycheck to Paycheck: The Life of Katrina Gilbert." This film is about the unequal status women face in 2014, which highlights the recent Shriver Report: "Women's Nation Pushes Back from the Brink" and the inequality for women.

This is a free and open event to the public and everyone is welcome. The documentary will be followed by a Q&A session featuring two subject matter experts.

**1 in 3
ADULT WOMEN
LIVE IN POVERTY**

Dr. Linda Salane, Interim Director for the Cooperative Ministries and CEO of WNN Consulting and Executive Coaching
 Former Executive Director of the Leadership Institute at Columbia College

Karen R. Jenkins, President & CEO KRJ Consulting, LLC
 Financial Empowerment Consultant

If you plan to attend, please send an RSVP to rsdp@brown.net or aubrown@columbiasc.net. Registration is not required, but an RSVP would be appreciated for planning purposes.

For more information, contact Leshia Utsey at 803-545-3020 or at lutsey@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia's 2nd Annual Small Business Week Conference

Wednesday, May 14, 2014
 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
 1101 Lincoln St.

Topics: Luncheon Keynote Speaker:

- Ways to Secure a Contract with the City of Columbia
- Free and Low Cost Technology Resources
- Business Creation and Sustainability for Women-Owned Businesses
- Benefits of Membership with the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce

Register today: <https://columbia2ndannualsmallbizweekconference.eventbrite.com>

For more information, please call the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950 or visit www.columbiasc.net/obo

Dr. Louis B. Lynn
 President, ENVIRO AgScience, Inc.

Featured in the Black Enterprise December 2013 Edition